

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:
 - inserting an expander member into said airway and positioning an active portion of said expander member in an interior of said airway and external to a tissue of said pharyngeal wall and in opposition to an airway-defining tissue of portions of said wall to be treated;
 - activating said expander member to urge against said airway-defining tissue of said portions to urge said portions to an outwardly displaced position;
 - deactivating said expander member while leaving said portions in said outwardly placed position;
 - removing said expander member from said airway; and
 - wherein said activating of said expander member creates an area of compressed tissue of said patient adjacent said portions and said method further comprising injecting a biocompatible tissue stabilizer into said compressed tissue while said portions are in said outwardly placed positions.
3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein said tissue stabilizer is an adhesive and said removing of said expander member occurs after at least initial setting of said adhesive.
4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein said tissue stabilizer is a fibrosis-inducing agent and said injecting includes injecting a said fibrosis-inducing agent into said compressed tissue to induce a fibrotic response from said compressed tissue.

5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is substantially non-biodegradable for said agent to induce a chronic fibrotic response.
6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is a bolus of particulate material.
7. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:
- inserting an expander member into said airway and positioning an active portion of said expander member in an interior of said airway and external to a tissue of said pharyngeal wall and in opposition to an airway-defining tissue of portions of said wall to be treated;
 - activating said expander member to urge against said airway-defining tissue of said portions to urge said portions to an outwardly displaced position;
 - deactivating said expander member while leaving said portions in said outwardly placed position;
 - removing said expander member from said airway; and
 - injecting a fibrosis-inducing agent into said compressed tissue to induce a fibrotic response from said compressed tissue.
8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 7 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is substantially non-biodegradable for said agent to induce a chronic fibrotic response.
9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is a bolus of particulate material.
- 10-11. (Canceled).
12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:

stabilizing at least a portion of said pharyngeal wall against underlying structure by securing said portion of said pharyngeal wall to said structure to resist inward collapse of said pharyngeal wall, where said portion extends transverse to an axis of the airway at least partially surrounding the airway; and

wherein said stabilization includes accessing said portion through said pharyngeal airway and mechanically securing said portion to said structure;

wherein said stabilization includes suturing said portion to said structure.

13 – 16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) (102b-6,161,541 - Woodson) (103 – 5,176,618 – Freedman) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:

accessing at least a portion of a tissue of said pharyngeal wall through said pharyngeal airway, where said portion extends transverse to an axis of the airway at least partially surrounding the airway; and

compressing said ~~at least a portion of a tissue of said pharyngeal wall~~ to a compressed state;

stabilizing said portion of said tissue in said compressed state;

wherein said stabilization includes mechanically securing said portion to a structure underlying said wall; and

wherein said stabilization includes suturing said portion to a structure underlying said wall.

18 – 21. (Canceled).

22. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising;

an expander member dimensioned so as to be inserted into said airway with an active portion of said expander member positioned in an interior of said airway and external to a tissue

of said pharyngeal wall and in opposition to an airway-defining tissue of portions of said wall to be treated;

an activator for activating said expander member to urge against said airway-defining tissue of said portions to urge said portions an outwardly displaced position;

said expander member adapted to be deactivated while leaving said portions in said outwardly placed position;

said expander member further dimensioned so as to be removable from said airway; and

an injector for injecting a fibrosis-inducing agent into compressed tissue adjacent said portions while said portions are in said outwardly placed positions.

23. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is substantially non-biodegradable.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said expander member carries a bolus of a particulate material as said fibrosis-inducing agent.